# *American Cinematographer* 1997 Index

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**compiled by Christopher Probst**


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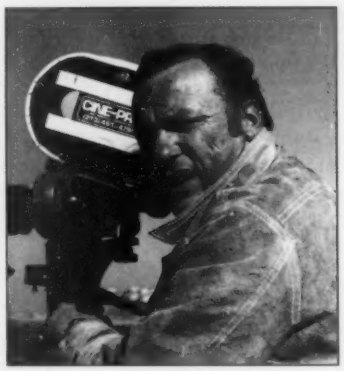
# In Memoriam



**Robert H. Caramico, ASC,** a former combat cameraman who became a distinguished Hollywood cinematographer, died on October 18 after a long battle against cancer. He was 64 and had been an ASC member since February 3, 1981.

Caramico was born in New York City on December 10, 1932. Orphaned as a child, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps when he was 17 and served for six years (1949-1955), including five years as a combat cameraman. He was wounded in Korea and hospitalized for a year. He was also captured and imprisoned in a secret "no-name" camp, whose inmates were slated to "disappear." He escaped nine months later. After leaving the Marines, he became a news cameraman for INS and was stationed in Israel for eight months. Caramico was reported killed along with several others when their truck hit a land mine, but he had jumped off before the explosion.

Late in 1956, Caramico returned to New York and entered the visual effects field. "From 1955 to 1975 I worked in all phases of motion pictures, including stop-motion photography, animation, optical effects and live-action photography," he said. He also photographed many commercials.

In 1964, he came to the West Coast and worked on many features, TV specials and pilots as a director of photography. His early work in Hollywood included *The Freddie Prinze Story, Journey to the Center of Time, Black Rider, Lamora, Octaman, Spawn of Slithis, The Doberman Gang, The Daring Dobermans, The Manhandlers, Willie, No Way Back* and others. In February of 1975 he became a member of IATSE Local 659.

His later features include *Mean Johnny Barrows, Adios Amigos, The Starlite Murders, Slumber Party '57, Joshua, Death Journey,* and *The Happy Hooker Goes to Washington.* In 1978 he began specializing in TV pilots and movies of the week for most of the major producers. His pilots include *919 Fifth Avenue, Gumshoe, Tom Swift/Linda Craig, Indians* and *Landon, Landon and Landon.* MOWs include *Kiss Meets the Phantom, Topper, The Love Tapes, Rape and Marriage,* and *Washington Mistress.* He won high praise for his work on Universal's miniseries *Beggarman, Thief.*

Although he preferred making features and pilots, Caramico sometimes returned to TV series productions, most notably for full seasons of *Dallas* and *Falcon Crest* and 43 episodes of *Lou Grant.* Other series he worked on were *Skag, Never Say Never, The Waltons, Whiz Kids, Second Half* and *Lassie.*

Last year, although he was undergoing chemotherapy, he filmed the *Boston Common* series for Castle Rock. "When you love what you do you never quit," he said when asked about retirement. This year he was photographing the series *Just Shoot Me* at CBS Studio City. Although he had to work in a wheelchair, he continued with the series until Thursday, October 16. "I won't be able to go in tomorrow," he said that night. He passed away two days later.

Executive Producer Steve Levitan said that "Bob was an inspiration to us all. We'd come in mornings with headaches or something and there he would be in his wheelchair, hard at work. When we saw him, we had no problems at all."

Bob Caramico is survived by his wife, Dianna, of Canyon Country, California; a son, Joseph, a sister and a grandson. Donations to his memory may be made to the Humane Society or the Motion Picture and Television Fund and Foundation. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, November 1, at the ASC Clubhouse. ◆